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Kaplan/DeFiore Children's Guide  
Bologna Children's Book Fair  
2024

**Linda Kaplan**  
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212 925 7744 x 106

## PICTURE BOOKS

# WE ARE A CLASS

Rob Sanders, illustrated by Hannah Abbo

Beaming Books, July 2024

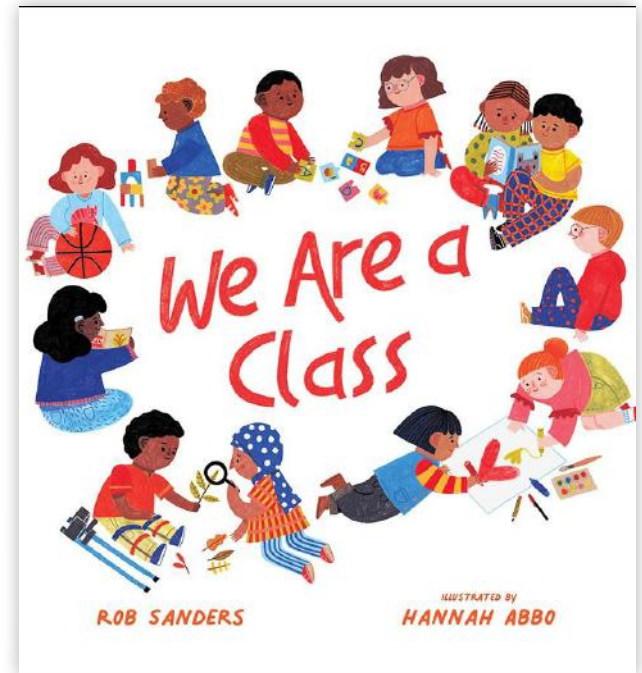
**If every class read this inspiring poem celebrating teachers, students, and all the amazing experiences they will have together, the world would be a better place!**

A celebratory declaration of what it means to be part of a diverse class of students.

We're movers and shakers. Mammoth change makers. Friends. Learners. Achievement earners.

An icebreaker and friend-maker, *We Are a Class* is an inclusive, aspirational story to be read aloud responsively, collectively, or as spoken-word performance. In rhyming verse, *We Are a Class* is a pledge, a commitment, a promise among the members of a single class and every class.

Perfect for the first day, the 100th day, the final day, and any day of school.



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Full Color Throughout

**Rob Sanders** is a teacher who writes and a writer who teaches. He is known for his funny and fierce fiction and nonfiction picture books and is recognized as a pioneer in the arena of LGBTQ+ literary nonfiction picture books. He is the author of dozens of picture books, including *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk* and the *Rainbow Flag*, *Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights*, and *Stonewall: A Building An Uprising A Revolution*. *Blood Brothers*, his first middle-grade novel, was selected as a 2023 NCTE Notable Novel in Verse. A native of Springfield, Missouri, Rob has lived and worked in Texas, Alabama, and Tennessee. He now lives in Florida and writes books full-time.

**Hannah Abbo** is an illustrator from the United Kingdom, currently living and working in Lisbon, Portugal. She lives with her partner and child, and their cat. When she's not drawing, she loves making ceramics in a local studio, visiting the botanical gardens, and baking bread.

# POPPY'S PERFECT CRAYONS

Emily Kilgore, illustrated by Florence Weiser

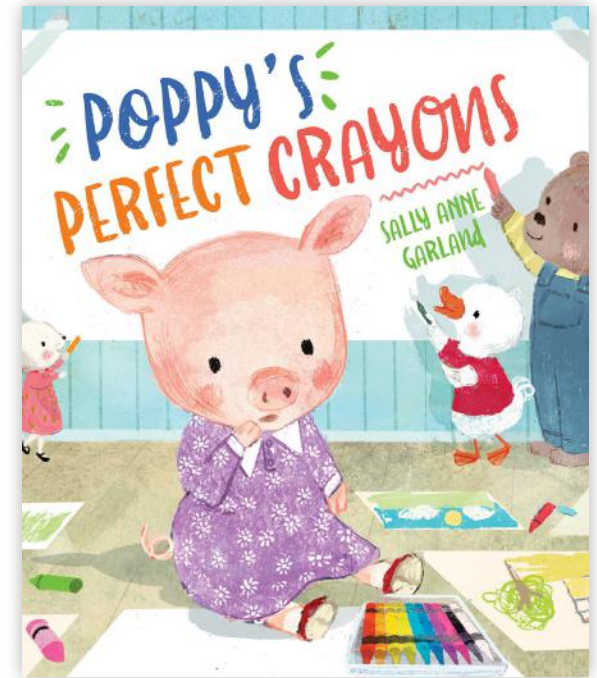
Beaming Books, July 2024

**A charming school story with a slew of generous budding artists sharing their mangled crayons with Poppy, until she tips out her new box of brand-new crayons for one huge perfect picture together.**

Poppy's fancy new crayons were perfect . . . perhaps too perfect?

As Poppy's classmates are having fun coloring, she doesn't want to ruin her perfect-looking crayons by using them. Seeing her reluctance, each of her friends lends her one of their crayons, which happen to be short, broken, chewed, paperless, or even bent. But when no one has the color Poppy needs, will her own crayons do, or are they just too perfect?

For kids who struggle with perfectionism or fear making mistakes, *Poppy's Perfect Crayons* offers a colorful story about how much fun "imperfect" things can be!



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Sally Garland was brought up in the small town of Alness in the Highlands of Scotland and studied illustration at Edinburgh College of Art. She currently works in Glasgow, where she lives with her partner and young son. Sally has loved drawing and has had a passion for children's literature and illustration since she was young. She now has many years of experience working as a children's illustrator.

# THE GHOST WHO WAS AFRAID OF EVERYTHING

Nadia Ahmed

Beaming Books, August 2024

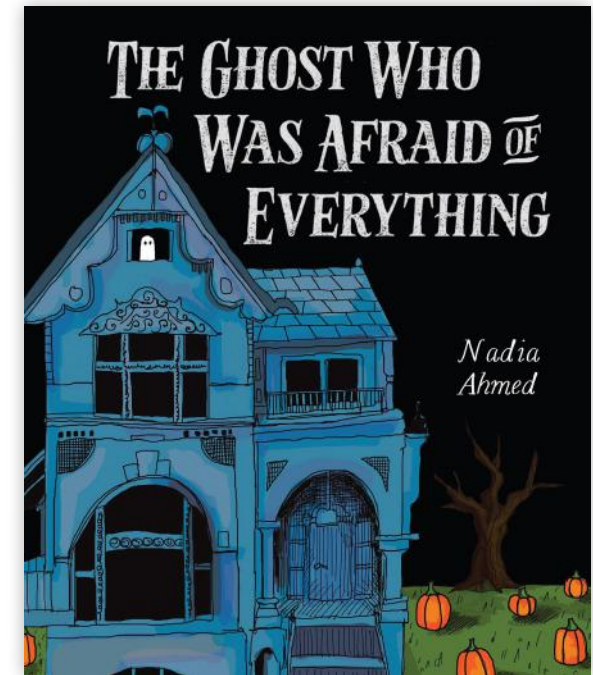
In the tradition of Lemony Snicket's *The Dark* and Riel Nason's *The Little Ghost Who Was a Quilt*, Finn, a whimsical ghostie - already popular on the author's social media - works through his fears of trick-or-treating.

If you're a fraidy-ghost, enjoying Halloween is hard!

When Finn is afraid, his stomach swoops, his hands sweat, and he can't move.

Finn, a spooky little ghostie, is too afraid to leave the comfort of his attic to enjoy trick-or-treating with his family. He's afraid of everything--the color orange, trees, people, even flying! But then he realizes that if he wants his favorite Halloween candy, he'll need to overcome his fears. Through incremental exposures to the things he's afraid of, Finn finds courage to do things he enjoys with the people he loves.

Perfect for spooky season, this debut picture book from artist Nadia Ahmed is sure to inspire readers to find the courage to overcome their own fears.



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**Nadia Ahmed** is an artist and author from Naperville, Illinois. She graduated from DePaul University with a BFA in graphic design. Nadia often uses only a black pen to create complex worlds that evoke an eerie nostalgia. *The Ghost Who Was Afraid of Everything* is her debut picture book.

# ANONYMOOSE

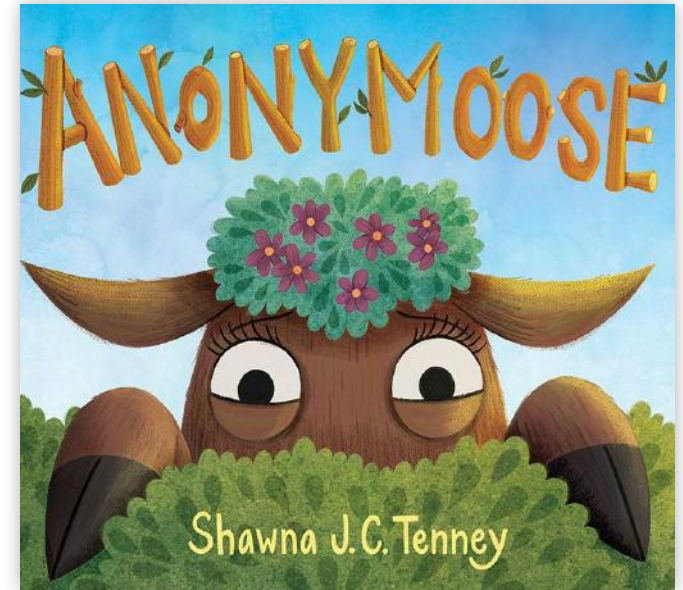
Shawna J.C. Tenney

Beaming Books, August 2024

**The art is half the fun, seeing this shy but enormous moose attempting to hide from her peers during recess. The other half is following the heartwarming development of friendship between Anonymoose and Peter the beaver.**

A humorous, heartfelt story about shyness, blending in, and the courage it takes to step out and speak up when it matters most.

Ana Moose feels most comfortable when she is hiding. Hiding is much more fun than knowing what to say or being picked last for the team. She enjoys being "Anonymoose"! Until one day, when she sees her classmate Peter building a fort. A fort could be a very good place to hide! But also, Ana starts to feel a connection with Peter. Will Anonymoose have enough courage to come out of hiding to make a friend?



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**Shawna J. C. Tenney** was once a shy kid who felt most comfortable hiding in her room, drawing. While she outgrew her shyness (mostly!) she still tucks herself away from time to time to write and illustrate stories she would have loved to read as a kid. Shawna is also the author and illustrator of *Pirates Don't Dance* and *Brunhilda's Backwards Day*. She lives in Utah with her family.



# HUCK AND LOONA

Emily Kilgore, illustrated by Florence Weiser

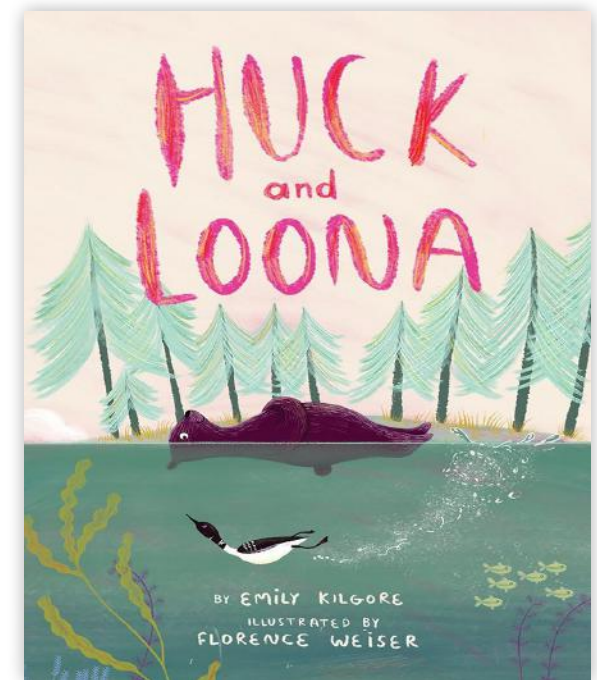
Beaming Books, October 2024

**Best friends Huck the bear and Loona the loon do everything together--until they don't. Preserving their friendship will take creative thinking for this lovable pair in the Northwoods.**

A story about friendship, conflict, and finding a path forward after disagreement.

Huck and Loona love spending time together in the Great Northwoods. From cloud-watching to fishing, the two want to do everything together. When they realize they sometimes want to do different things or that there are some activities the other simply cannot do, they worry that their friendship is over.

With themes of friendship, individuality, compromise, and grace, *Huck and Loona* equips children to embrace their uniqueness and communicate with others for healthy relationships that help them grow and thrive.



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**Emily Kilgore** is an educator and writer of picture books. She strives to share books that bring people together. She is also the author of *The Whatifs*, *The Iheards*, and *The Christmas Book Flood*. She lives in Minneapolis with her husband, their son, and their kitty.

**Florence Weiser** is a French illustrator based in Belgium. She grew up in Luxembourg and studied illustration in Brussels, followed by specialized studies in graphics and web design in Paris. She has illustrated numerous children's books for publishers around the world.

# LUPITA'S BROWN BALLET SLIPPERS

Steena Hernandez, illustrated by Melissa Castillo

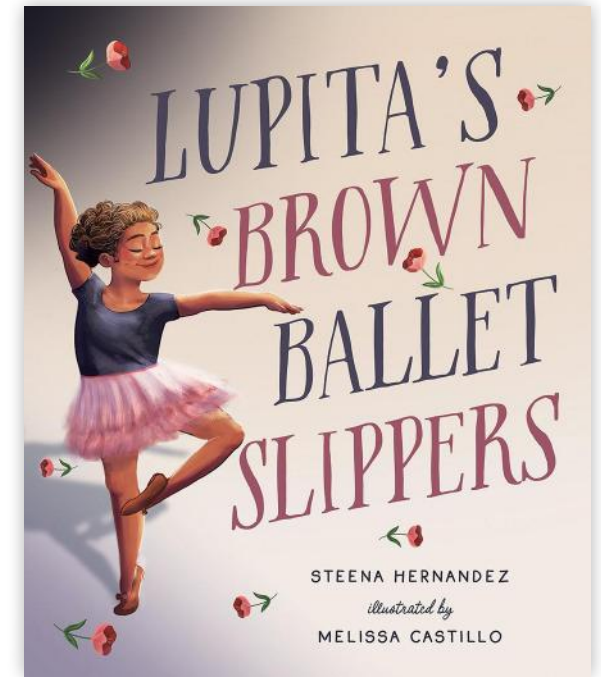
Beaming Books, October 2024

**Every little dancer will love Lupita's story of determination and dreaming of the perfect slippers.**

Everyone deserves to shine.

Lupita's big ballet recital is approaching. The music is perfect. Her ballet moves are strong. But her peachy pink ballet slippers don't match her skin tone. Lupita searches for the right pair only to discover it will take hard work--and messy measures--in order for her shoes to dance with her.

Inspired by the author's own experiences as a Latina dancer, *Lupita's Brown Ballet Slippers* is a charming story filled with determination. The final few spreads teach readers about the history of ballet slippers as well as the crucial changes the industry has seen for dancers of all races and ethnicities.



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**Steena Hernandez** holds a BFA in theatre, music, and dance from Texas Tech University, and has performed with the Rent Broadway tour, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra as a vocalist, and the United Service Organization (USO) tour, and more. She now resides in San Antonio, Texas, with her family. She's a storyteller at heart, and when she's not writing or cooking, you can find her curled up in a cozy spot reading with her two children.

**Melissa Castillo's** work is heavily inspired by her Peruvian culture and heritage. With the lack of diverse representation of Latinx culture in illustration, she hopes to properly represent people of color and create relatable art for all cultures.



# EACH DAY IS A GIFT

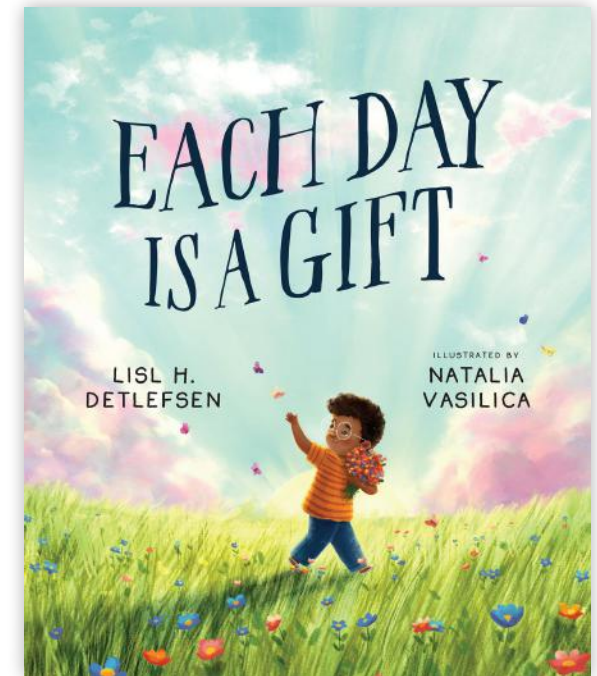
Lisl H. Detlefsen, illustrated by Nadia Vasilica

Beaming Books, October 2024

**Whether gifts are surprising or expected, thrilling or practical, or even something you never wanted at all, they all have value.**

With a yawn and a stretch, another day is delivered to you.

Each day brings the possibility of new gifts. We welcome some gifts with delight. Others are the kind we'd rather return. Lyrical and explorative, *Each Day Is a Gift* gently reveals how gifts' purposes are not always clear immediately, and while we can't choose what gifts we receive, we can choose how to use them.



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**Lisl H. Detlefsen** is the author of a growing number of picture books, including her most recent title, *Farm Boots*. She lives in a restored farmhouse on a family-owned cranberry marsh near Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, with her husband, two sons, and two cats.

As a child, **Natalia Vasilica** spent most of her time in the countryside, surrounded by fields and farms. She loved to draw the surroundings and capture nature's beauty. Natalia mixes traditional mediums with digital tools to create a unique feeling in her illustrations. Nature, animals, and children are her main inspiration.

# RAINBOW ALLIES

Nancy Churnin, illustrated by Izzy Evans

Beaming Books, July 2024

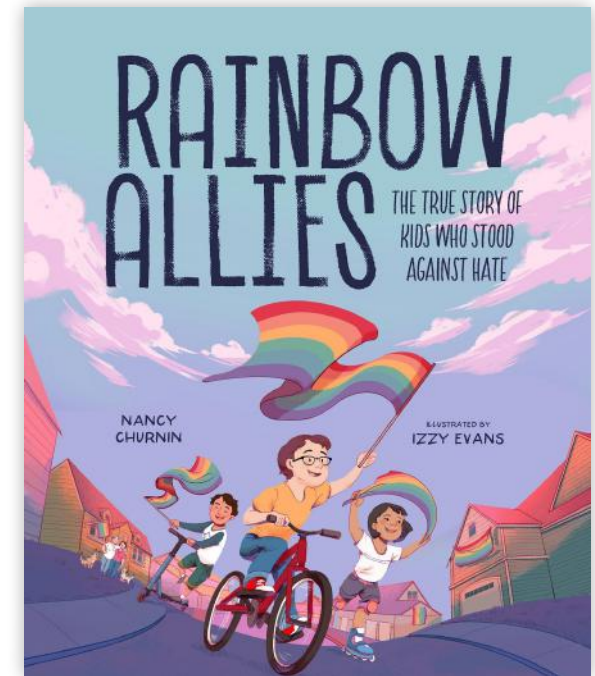
From celebrated, award-winning author Nancy Churnin comes the true story of kids who banded together and became allies to the lesbian couple in their Massachusetts neighborhood.

A true story of allyship and standing up to anti-LGBTQ hate.

When a lesbian couple comes home one day to find their Pride flag stolen and their front porch egged, the sense of belonging they had felt in their community is threatened. Are they safe in their house? The support they need comes from an unexpected place--the neighborhood's children. Together, the local kids create a plan to show Cari and Lauri just how valued they are in the community.

Based on real-life events, *Rainbow Allies* tells the story of how a Massachusetts neighborhood rallied together around Cari and Lauri--and their dogs, Twink and Scout--to make them feel welcomed and loved again after an act of hate. Written by multi-award-winning author Nancy Churnin, this book is an inspiring introduction to allyship for young readers and changemakers.

Backmatter includes guidance for how children can be LGBTQ allies in their own communities.



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**Nancy Churnin** is an award-winning children's book author who lives in North Texas. Nancy won the 2021 National Jewish Book Award, the 2022 Sydney Taylor Honor, and the First Place--Children's Book Nonfiction awards from the National Federation of Press Women and Press Women of Texas for *Dear Mr. Dickens*. She has also won honors for *Manjhi Moves a Mountain*, along with many others, as well as starred reviews from *School Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, and *Publishers Weekly*.

**Izzy Evans** is an illustrator, animator, and weekend flapjack baker from North London, England. Their work is best known for its diverse characters, gentle humor, and the occasional unicorn.

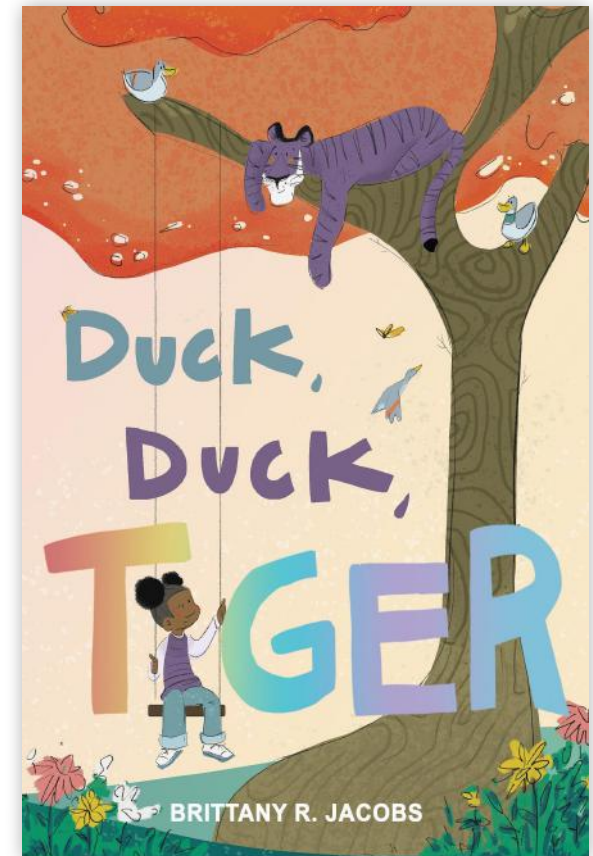
# DUCK, DUCK, TIGER

Brittany R. Jacobs

Beaming Books, May 2023

**An empowering story about finding courage, self-love, and pride in a world where you feel different from those around you.**

Lili has noticed that she's different from everyone around her... like she's a tiger when everyone else seems to be a duck. Should she announce her discovery? She worries that the world doesn't like tigers. What if no one likes tigers? Inspired by the author's childhood and lived experiences, *Duck, Duck, Tiger* is a picture book which explores the difficulties those with marginalized identities face from an early age. Lili's journey from uneasy feelings to understanding and pride will resonate with readers struggling with their own sense of otherness, championing inclusion.



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**Brittany R. Jacobs** spends her days steeped in books at a library in Southwest Iowa. Learning the art of oral storytelling from childhood, she developed a unique voice that she uses as a writer. A self-taught artist who uses a combination of traditional watercolor and digital art, she blends observation and natural curiosity to create fun and unique art.

When not working at the library, writing, or illustrating, she can be found exploring nature with her wife and dogs, chasing her curiosity as far and fast as she can.

# REMEMBERING SUNDAYS WITH GRANDPA

FLaura H. Kerstein, illustrated by Nanette Regan

Beaming Books, November 2023

**From acclaimed author Lauren Kerstein comes a sensitively told story about grief, cherishing family memories, and the comforting truth that love lives on forever.**

Henry and his mom feel Grandpa's love in all his special places: in the rocking chair where he read stories with silly voices, in the cucumbers that always made him hiccup, and in the jewelry box he used to wind up so they could dance. As they remember the many loving moments they shared, they work through their grief.

*Remembering Sundays with Grandpa* illustrates how even when someone is no longer part of the physical world, their love lives on forever.



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**Lauren H. Kerstein** is an author and psychotherapist. She is a Jersey girl at heart who currently lives in Colorado with her husband, their daughters, and their rescue dogs. Lauren is the author of *Home for a While*, and the *Rosie the Dragon* and *Charlie* picture book series. She runs #ReVISIONweek and is a member of SCBWI and 12x12.

**Nanette Regan** studied fine arts at the Slade School of Art in London. She lives in Jersey, a tiny island between England and France.



# THE KID WITH BIG, BIG IDEAS

Britney Winn Lee, illustrated by Jacob Souva

Beaming Books, August 2023

From the author of the bestselling *The Boy with Big, Big Feelings* and *The Girl with Big, Big Questions* comes a new book designed to inspire kids to boldly use their voices to change the world.

"There once was a kid with glittery nails

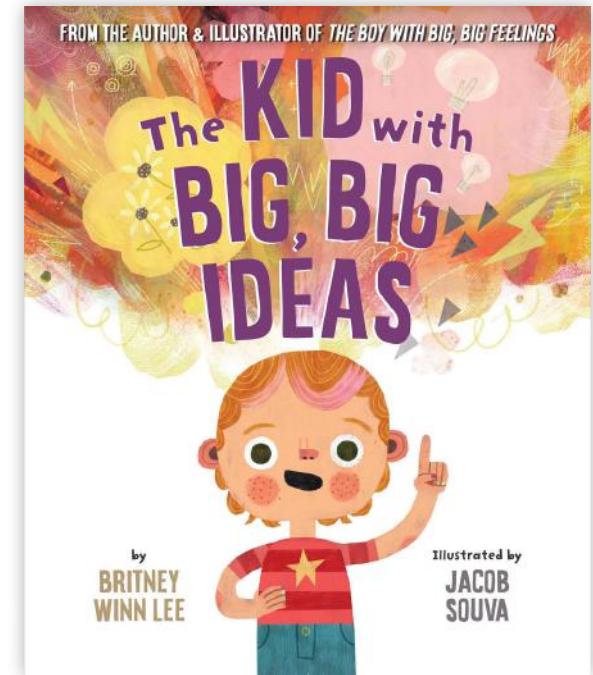
who always wore colorful socks,

and all around town, this child was known

for thinking outside of the box."

Following the bestselling *The Boy with Big, Big Feelings* and *The Girl with Big, Big Questions* comes a new story about a nonbinary kid with ideas so big and wild that grown-ups often dismiss them. What if we could be mermaids and swim to school? What if we could teach pets to talk? What if we could make the world safe and inclusive for everyone?

This innovative kid doesn't stop there, and with the help of their supportive Gram, they come up with the biggest idea yet. In a world that so often dismisses and excludes kids from decision-making, this book boldly suggests that not only should kids have a voice, but that their ideas just might be the ticket to making progress.



**Also available: THE BOY WITH BIG, BIG FEELINGS (Beaming Books, 2019)**

**Rights sold to Sola Publishing (Turkish) and THE GIRL WITH BIG, BIG QUESTIONS**

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**Britney Winn Lee** is a writer as well as a community arts director in Shreveport, LA where she lives with her husband and son. She writes primarily at the intersection of faith and justice, dedicated to good news and full life that are good and full for all.

**Jacob Souva** resides in a small countryside community in upstate New York. He received one of 3 honorable mentions in the portfolio showcase award at the 2020 SCBWI Winter Conference in NYC, and has illustrated 4 books including *Where Do Cowgirls Go Potty*.

# KAIA'S BIG FELINES

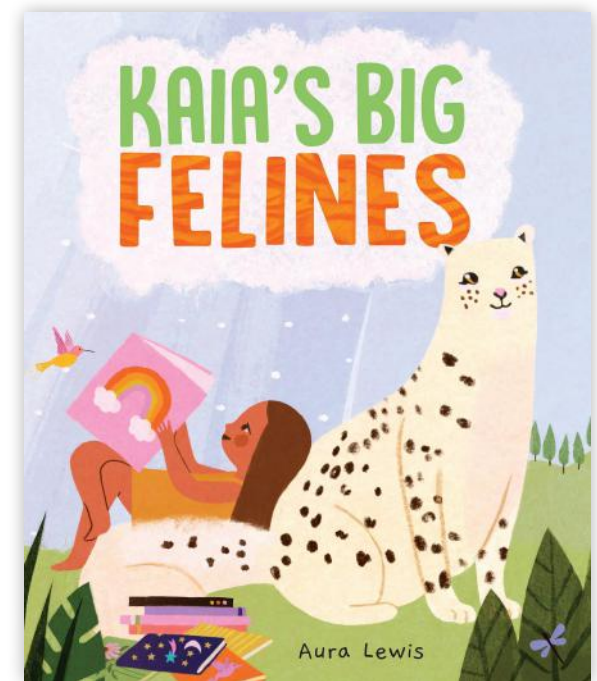
Aura Lewis

Beaming Books, August 2023

**From beloved author and illustrator Aura Lewis comes an entertaining look at emotional intelligence through the traits of different types of cats.**

Kaia experiences all kinds of emotions, and she relates them to various types of cats. Cheetah is fast and fearless, Leopard loves the spotlight, but Tiger has a temper. When Kaia's felines become overwhelming, she takes some time to herself to rest and reset.

An engaging look at emotional intelligence through traits of cats.



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**Aura Lewis** is an author-illustrator and designer with an MFA from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She is inspired by fashion from around the world, playful color, vintage design, and popular culture. Aura's works include Gloria's Voice, Spectacular Sisters, and The Illustrated Feminist.



# KIKI KICKS

Jane Yolen and Ariel Stemple, illustrated by John Ledda

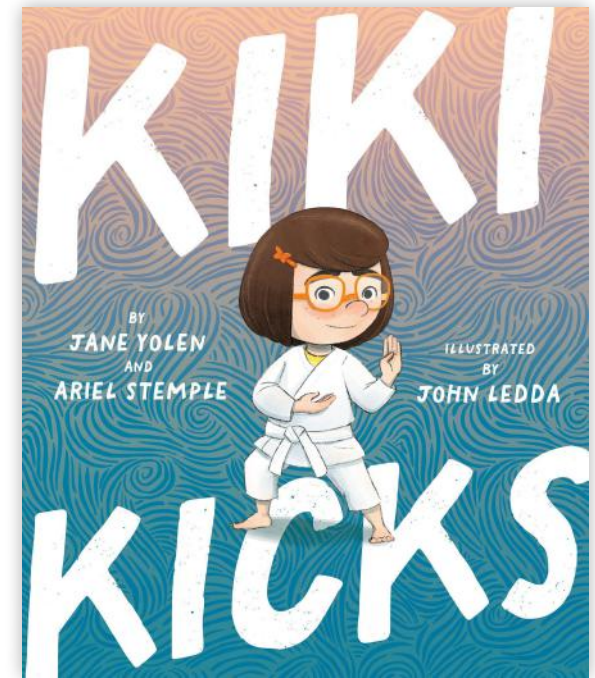
Beaming Books, October 2023

From legendary, award-winning author Jane Yolen and her karate-practicing grandchild, this engaging story empowers kids to be self-confident, strong, and resilient, despite all obstacles.

"I want to be strong for the right reasons."

Kiki has watched her mama practice karate for a long time, and now she wants to learn too. She wants to become strong and steady like a mountain. The bullies at school are strong for the wrong reasons. They make Kiki feel small. But today at her first karate lesson, everything changes.

Award-winning author Jane Yolen joins forces with debut author Ariel Stemple in this picture book inspired by Stemple's own childhood experience of learning martial arts after experiencing bullying at school. This lyrical story of self-empowerment at a martial arts studio is woven around the poetic lines of Yolen's well-known poem "Karate Kid," used by educators and librarians for decades. Backmatter includes information about different karate stances and a note about how martial arts can instill confidence and strength in children.



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**Jane Yolen** is the author of well over 400 published books, including the Caldecott-winning Owl Moon, and the multimillion bestselling How Do Dinosaurs series, plus novels, short story collections, poetry collections, and many picture books. Her multiple awards include Nebulas, World Fantasy, three Christopher Medal awards, the Kerlan Award, the Jewish Book Award, the Sydney Taylor Body of Work Award, as well as being named Grand Master by three major writing organizations: Science Fictions Writers of America, the World Fantasy Association, and the Science Fiction Poetry Association. She has six honorary doctorates from colleges and universities. She teaches writing, sends out a poem a day to subscribers, and at eighty-three, got remarried to an old college boyfriend who is a poet himself.

**Ariel Stemple** is an author from Minneapolis, Minnesota, with a bachelor of fine arts degree from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota. They come from a family of writers, including Jane Yolen and Adam Stemple. They trained in a martial arts style called wu chien pai for ten years. Kiki Kicks is their debut picture book.

**John Ledda** was born and raised in southeast Michigan. He moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to pursue his MFA at the Academy of Art University. He is the illustrator of Kiki Kicks by Jane Yolen and Ariel Stemple, Big Bear Was Not the Same by Joanna Rowland, and other titles.

# IF MY HAIR HAD A VOICE

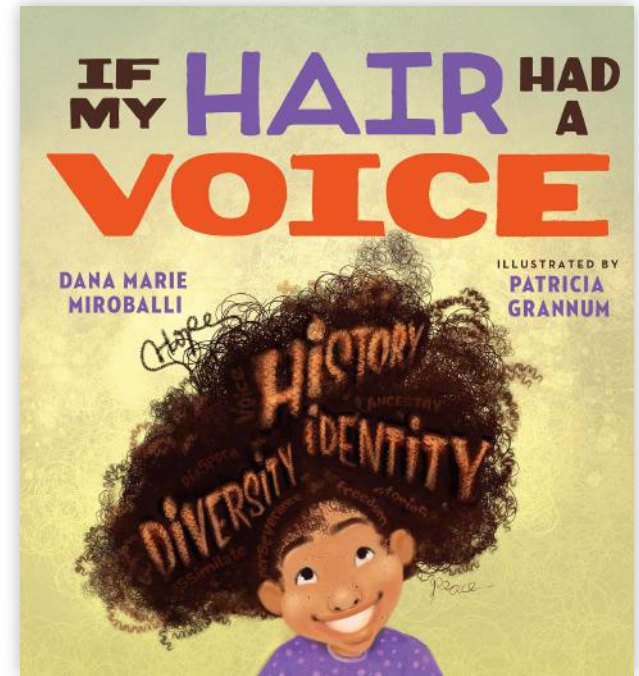
Dana Marie Miroballi, illustrated by Patricia Grannum

Beaming Books, May 2024

**An uplifting and empowering anthem celebrating the beauty and rich cultural history of Black hair**

"If your hair had a voice, it would sing of diversity and identity. It would tell you stories of our history."

An ode to loving your hair and your culture, *If My Hair Had A Voice* follows a young Black girl as she grows from being disappointed in her natural hair to developing an amazed appreciation for the long history of Black hair. From blossoming floral motifs in celebration of spring to intricate braided codes for spreading revolutionary messages, she discovers that Black hair goes beyond simple adornment--it tells the story of a rich cultural history filled with diversity, resistance, artistry, and, of course, beauty. Backmatter explores the history of each hairstyle featured in the book.



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**Dana Marie Miroballi** is a biracial teacher turned speech-language pathologist writing books for young readers. She grew up in Germany, served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Uzbekistan, and now lives in Chicago with her husband and children.

Illustrating from her home in Trinidad and Tobago, **Patricia Grannum's** work is fueled by a passion for ensuring that children of color see themselves in the books they read. Her art reflects the cultural vibrancy of her Caribbean upbringing, with a focus on conveying a sense of wonder in the books she illustrates.

# JOURNEY TO THE STARS: KALPANA CHAWLA, ASTRONAUT

Laurie Wallmark and Raakhee Mirchandani, illustrated by Maitreyi Ghosh

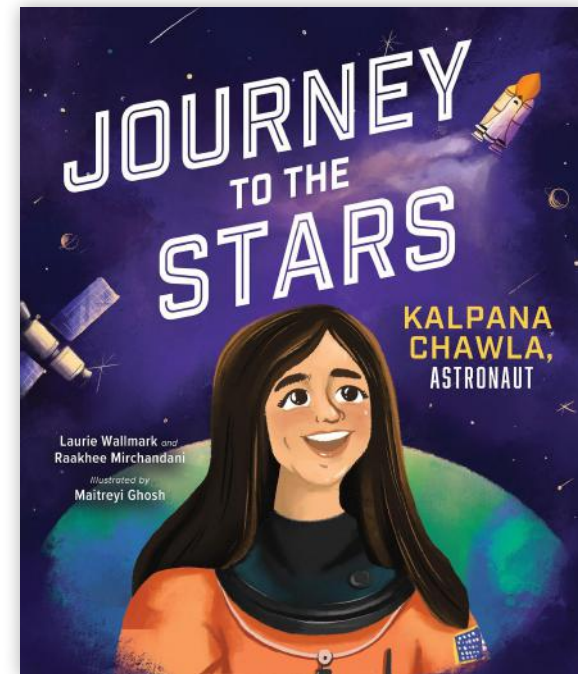
Beaming Books, February 2024

Co-written by award-winning author Laurie Wallmark and celebrated journalist and activist Raakhee Mirchandani, this inspiring picture book biography introduces readers to Kalpana Chawla, the first female Indian American astronaut.

A powerful story of hope about a woman who fought against all odds to become the first Indian American female astronaut.

Kalpana Chawla set her sights on flight from an early age. She was told "no" many times in life: *No, girls don't study aerospace. No, women don't become astronauts. No, you won't succeed in the United States.* But Kalpana didn't listen--she was too busy forging her own path to the stars. And after a long journey of dedication, perseverance, and patience, she finally made it to space. Her inspiring story is a powerful reminder for girls all over the world to never, ever give up on their dreams.

Based on the true story of the first female Indian American astronaut, *Journey to the Stars* details the challenges and triumphs of Kalpana Chawla's life up through her first journey into space. Her story is sure to inspire educators and parents interested in encouraging curiosity and a passion for STEM in girls and boys. Backmatter includes an author's note and a timeline of Kalpana's life and awards.



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**Laurie Wallmark** is an award-winning author who writes biographies of women in STEM, along with fiction. Her books have earned multiple starred trade reviews and received awards such as Best STEM Book and Parent's Choice Gold Medal. Laurie is a former software engineer and computer science professor. She has an MFA in writing and lives in New Jersey.

**Raakhee Mirchandani** is a journalist, children's book author, activist, and mom. Previously a feature writer and columnist for the New York Post, a managing editor at the New York Daily News, and an associate editor at the Boston Herald, Raakhee has had work in Elle, Glamour, the Wall Street Journal, Redbook, and HuffPo. She was also the editor in chief of Moneyish, published by Dow Jones. The daughter of immigrants, Raakhee currently lives in New Jersey.

**Maitreyi Ghosh** is a multidisciplinary designer specializing in illustration. She illustrated The ABCs of Virtue, which was a Best Book Award winner at the American Book Fest in 2021. Maitreyi lives in India.



# SEARCHING FOR HOME

Chantal Bourgonje

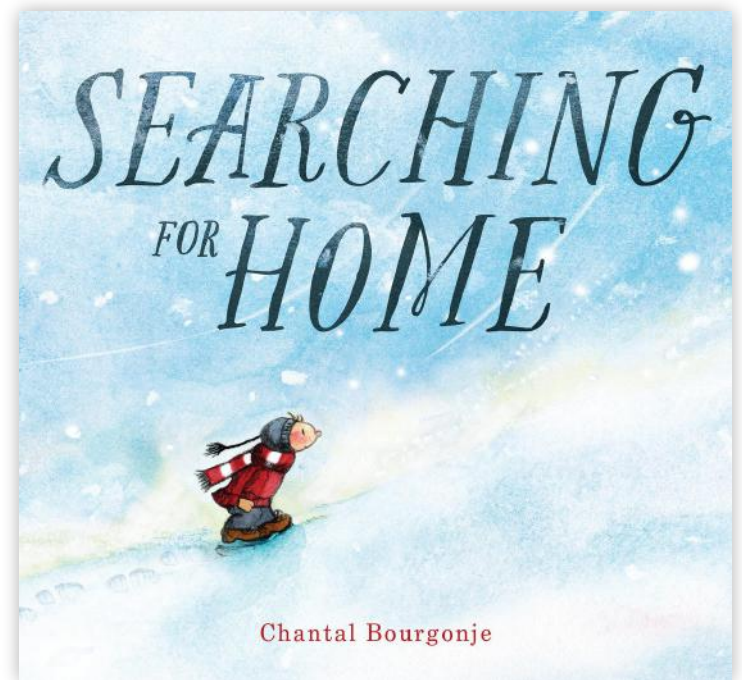
Beaming Books, January 2024

**When Noa the wood sprite cannot find friends in his home, he embarks on an adventure to discover that home is being with those you care about and who care about you.**

**Noa is an excellent finder. But he can't seem to find any friends.**

Noa the house-sprite likes his home . . . but it doesn't have any friends in it. Determined to change that, Noa sets out on an adventure to find a home with friends. Along the way, he meets Bear, Ferret, and Wolf. Together they face daunting dangers and witness breathtaking beauty, all in search of a new home . . . until they come to realize that maybe the real home is the friendships they made along the way.

The timeless message and whimsical art of *Searching for Home* make this the perfect gift book for folktale enthusiasts and fairy tale lovers. Young readers will resonate with Noa's hunt for true friendship and might just be inspired to go on an adventure or two of their own. Oftentimes, rich friendships are waiting just around the corner.



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**Chantal Bourgonje** is a Dutch creator of picture books, living in the United Kingdom. She illustrated two books in the Worzel Wooface series and three books in the Horace and Nim series, and is the creator of her own stories, including Fierce Grey Mouse.

# MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS

Christine Van Zandt, illustrated by Alejandra Barajas

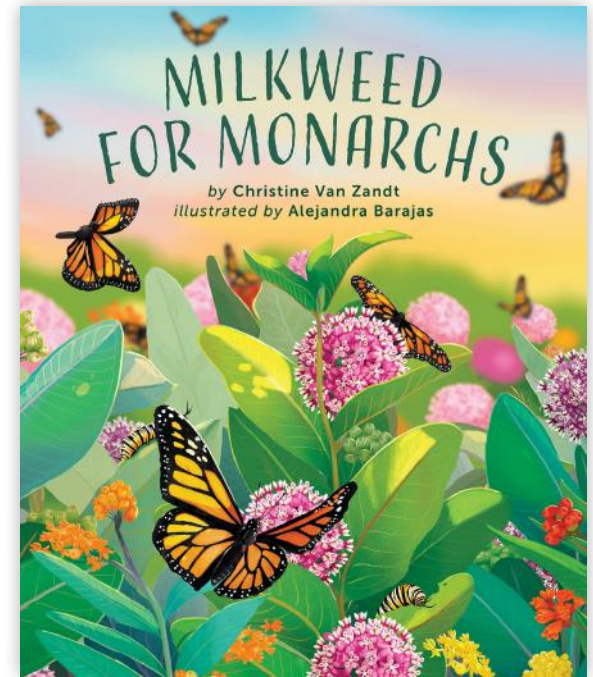
Beaming Books, February 2024

**This stunning, lyrical nonfiction picture book offers a close look at the life cycle of the beloved, endangered monarch butterfly, as well as a call to action to care for our planet.**

Bold, gold, the chrysalis gleams. And deep down inside . . . the butterfly dreams.

Every year, monarch butterflies migrate to warmer climates for overwintering months. However, changing environments make it continually more difficult to find food and places to lay eggs. In this nonfiction picture book, the monarch's life cycle is detailed in lyrical verse as stunning art accompanies each stage in the butterfly's life.

The most recognizable butterfly, monarchs are classified as an endangered species by the IUCN, and face drastic challenges when it comes to locating food sources--milkweed. *Milkweed for Monarchs* is the perfect resource for young readers to learn more about these beautiful insects and how they can foster monarch-friendly environments in their own backyard. Backmatter includes actionable ways for readers to help this vulnerable species.



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Translation  
Beaming Books  
Layouts

*Category:*  
*Format:*

Picture Book, Nonfiction  
Full Color Throughout

**Christine Van Zandt** is an editor, writer, and award-winning author. Her books include the funny nonfiction picture book *A Brief History of Underpants*. She lives in Los Angeles, California, with her family.

**Alejandra Barajas** was born in Guanajuato, Mexico. She completed her degree in fine arts at Guanajuato University and has been illustrating magazines and children's books ever since, including *A Costume for Charly*.

# PEG GETS CRACKIN'

Jo Renfro

Beaming Books, February 2024

“Peg Gets Crackin’” combines expressive illustrations with a very funny story that gently nudges readers to break out of their shell.” –*The Reading Eagle*

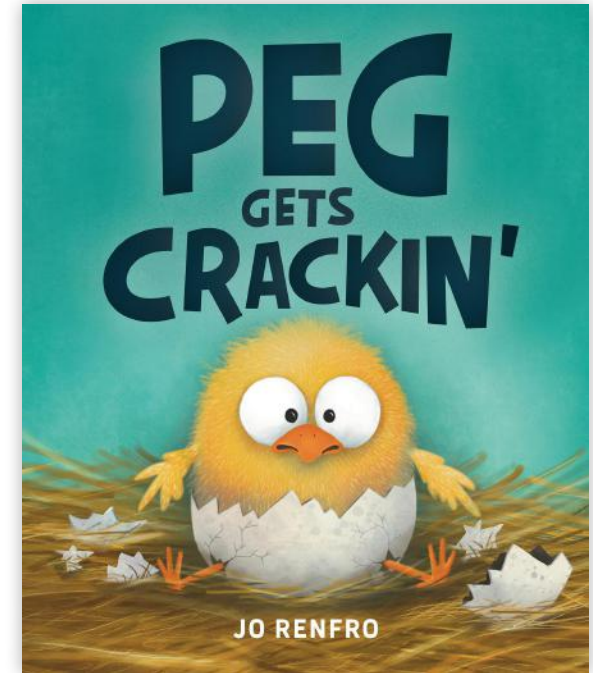
**Peg the egg isn't sure about cracking out of her shell into the big, scary world, but maybe being a chicken will actually be pretty great?**

**Time to get crackin'!**

Peg is perfectly content within the safe, contained shell of her egg. While her siblings hatch around her, she imagines all the scary things waiting in the outside world--things that make her happy to stay an egg.

But even Peg must hatch. She grows, and grows, and one day . . . CRACK! Peg takes her first hesitant steps into the big, frightening world and discovers . . . the world isn't so bad after all. In fact, it's actually pretty wonderful!

Bursting with spirit and humor, Peg Gets Crackin' is packed with entertaining illustrations and perfect for read-aloud storytime. Young readers will giggle at Peg's antics and resonate with her journey to conquer her fears. You never know what exciting adventures are waiting just outside of your shell!



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Picture Book  
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**Jo Renfro** is an author and illustrator based in Colorado. *Peg Gets Crackin'* is her debut picture book.



# MARA HEARS IN STYLE

Terri Clemmons, illustrated by Lucy Rogers

Beaming Books, February 2024

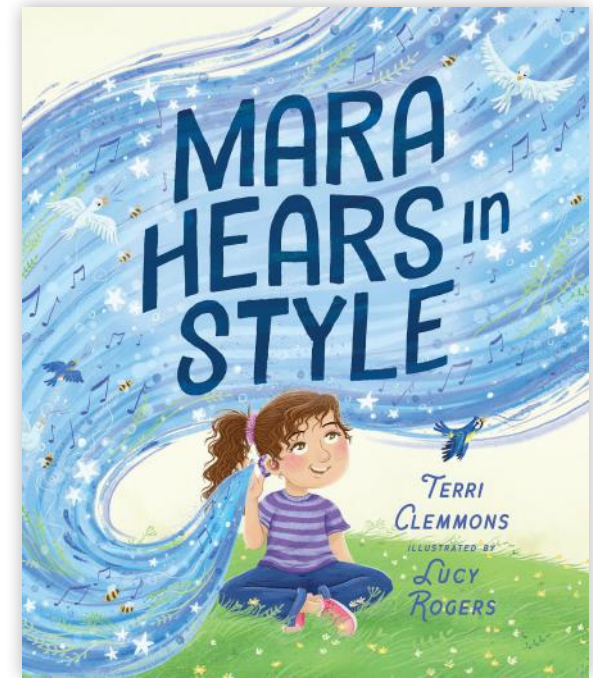
"Accessible and engaging, *Mara Hears in Style* will encourage readers to respect hearing differences and inspire kids who worry about making new friends. The book is filled with American Sign Language depictions—including a full alphabet spread—so readers can sign alongside Mara as they discover new ways to bridge communication gaps in their own communities." – *School Library Journal*

**From When Mara's classmates keep asking about the hearing aids she is wearing, she finds a way to connect with them without using words.**

**Mara takes on the world with her flashy purple hearing aids and sassy, hot pink earmolds.**

Mara's first day at her new school is filled with ups and downs surrounding her hearing aids: her teacher doesn't remember to turn on her microphone, the lunchroom is too chaotic for lip-reading, and she keeps reading the same question over and over on her classmates' lips: "What's in her ears?" After a morning spent navigating these challenges, Mara makes a connection on the playground and finds that her hearing aid superpowers are perfect for making new friends.

Accessible and engaging, *Mara Hears in Style* will encourage readers to respect hearing differences and inspire kids who worry about making new friends. The book is filled with American Sign Language depictions--including a full alphabet spread--so readers can sign alongside Mara as they discover new ways to bridge communication gaps in their own communities.



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**Terri Clemmons** writes picture books and middle-grade novels. She previously taught elementary school for twenty-five years. Clemmons lives with her family in Illinois.

**Lucy Rogers** is an award-winning illustrator based in England. Prior to graduating with a BA Honors degree in illustration at Falmouth University, she was shortlisted for the Penguin Student Design Award of 2019. Lucy, who is deaf, has led a series of illustration workshops for young deaf people at the National Deaf Children's Society and at the Deaf Academy.

# SOMETIMES I AM HOT LAVA

Jody Jensen Shaffer, illustrated by Amélie Videlo

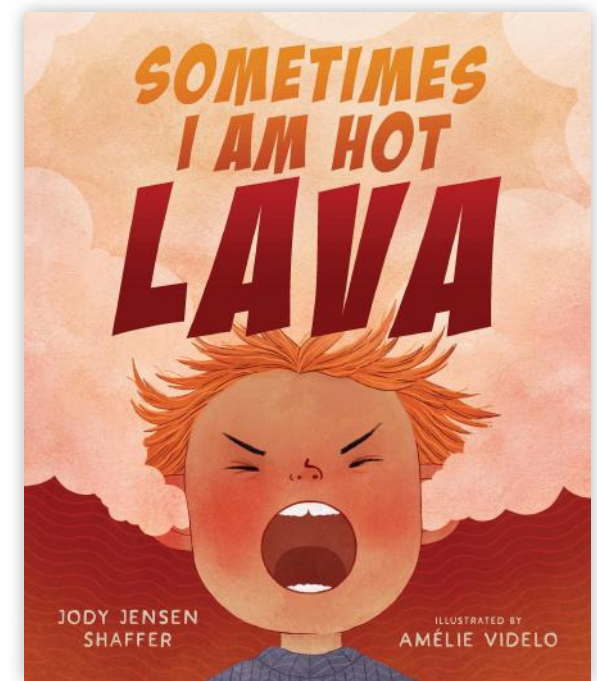
Beaming Books, April 2024

**Buddy is an ordinary kid who sometimes erupts like a volcano! Can he learn new ways to manage his anger and frustration?**

**Sometimes when I get mad . . . Bubble . . . Boil . . . Erupt!**

Most of the time, Buddy is a regular kid. He has ups and downs. But when things don't go his way, he can feel the magma bubble and boil inside of him until he erupts like a volcano. Fortunately, he knows a few ways to return to feeling as calm and cool as igneous rock.

*Sometimes I Am Hot Lava* shows kids like Buddy how to manage feelings of anger and frustration through mindful breathing techniques. Backmatter teaches readers about anger and helps us identify what we're feeling, why we're feeling it, and what we can do about it.



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**Jody Jensen Shaffer** is an award-winning poet and the author of more than seventy books of fiction and nonfiction for children. After twelve years in corporate education, Jody left to raise her kids and fell in love with children's literature. When she's not writing, she loves spending time with her family, walking her rescue dog, Sophie, and being outside in nature.

**Amélie Videlo** is a French/Mauritian illustrator based in the UK. Family and nostalgia from her childhood inspire her the most. She loves making pictures full of rich flora and playful characters with mediums such as gouache, acrylic, crayons, and digital painting.

# TUGGOAT

Kersten Hamilton, illustrated by Adriane Tsai

Beaming Books, April 2024

'My heart dreams tugboat dreams,' declares the lovable goat at the center of this upbeat picture book.... Soft coloring infuses Tsai's unlined barnyard scenes with a luminous quality that suits Cordelia's bright dreams and gentle personality."

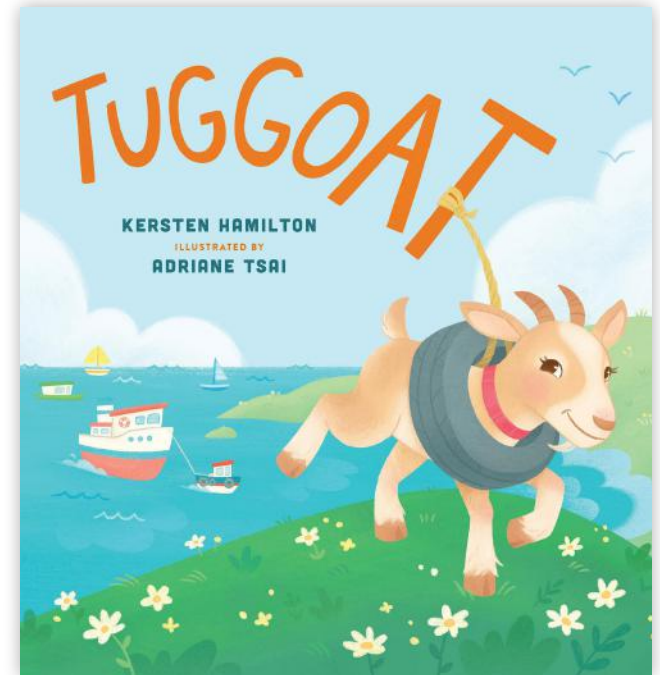
–*Publishers Weekly*

**Meet Cordelia, a determined goat, who refuses to let anyone place limits on what she can or cannot do.**

**Kids will giggle with joy at Cordelia the goat's antics in this whimsical tale about self-confidence, empathy, and never backing down from big dreams.**

Cordelia is not like other goats. While others gambol on the hill and nibble on interesting things, she looks out with longing at the tugboats in the bay. Cordelia may be a goat, but she wants to be a tugboat. And she's going to be a tugboat--a tuggoat--no matter what anybody tells her! Even if the world doesn't believe in her, Cordelia knows exactly who she is.

With plenty of heart and lots of laughs, Cordelia's story will inspire readers to be themselves, no matter what other people say. Sometimes that means extending a helping hand--or hoof--to the ones who doubt you. Tuggoat reminds kids that anything is possible when you believe in yourself.



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**Kersten Hamilton** is a critically acclaimed author of books for toddlers, teens, and all people in between. Her fast-paced stories are loved by readers around the world. She is the author of *Red Truck*, illustrated by Valeria Petrone, which received a starred review from Booklist and has sold almost a quarter million copies. *The Red Truck and Friends* series now has six books about different trucks and machines. Kersten is also the author of *First Friend: How Dogs Evolved from Wolves to Become Our Best Friends*, illustrated by Jaime Kim, and the YA novel *In the Forests of the Night*, among many other books for children and teens. She currently lives in New Mexico, where, when not writing, she hunts dinosaurs in the Ojito Wilderness.

**Adriane Tsai** is a Taiwanese American illustrator from Southern California. As someone who has wanted to be an artist since childhood, she encourages everyone that they can achieve their biggest dreams.

# WHAT ARE YOU, LOU?

Danielle Herzog, illustrated by Jestenia Southerland

Beaming Books, May 2024

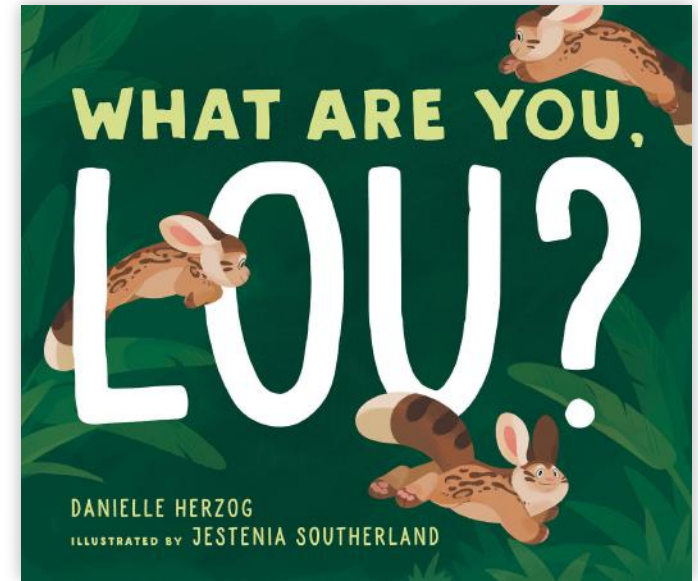
Written by a school counselor, this affirming picture book inspires kids to embrace their uniqueness and celebrate being unapologetically exactly who they are.

Your identity is more than just one word or label.

When Lou, a fluffy-tailed, giant-eared, colorful animal, is asked by the other animals to define himself, he isn't able to give a one-word answer. Lou isn't a lemur. Or a snake. Or an armadillo. Lonely and confused, Lou runs away from that dreaded, repetitive question: "What are you, Lou?" But when his atypical traits save him during a frightening encounter in the jungle, Lou realizes he doesn't need to fit into one box. He's Lou, and that's what matters most.

Inclusive and affirming, What Are You, Lou? champions diverse identities and encourages readers to embrace the unique mark they leave on the world. Lou's journey to self-acceptance will resonate with readers whose identities lie outside of society's supposed norms. This book celebrates standing out in a world that is constantly trying to box us in.

Backmatter from an established writer and school counselor provides resources for navigating questions of identity with the child in your life.



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**Danielle Herzog** is an elementary school counselor, a writer, speaker, television correspondent, and mother. Her writing has been featured in The Washington Post, The Chicago Tribune, Parenting, The Huffington Post, Mamalode, AOL, What to Expect, and Nickelodeon, as well as other national and local publications.

## **MIDDLE GRADE & CHAPTER BOOKS**



# ALL ABOUT GRIEF

Lora-Ellen McKinney, illustrated by Sophia Toulia tou

Beaming Books, April 2024

As youth mental-health struggles continue to rise, this engaging guide is an important resource for preteens looking to better understand grief and loss, with helpful tools and strategies for navigating grief and moving forward with hope.

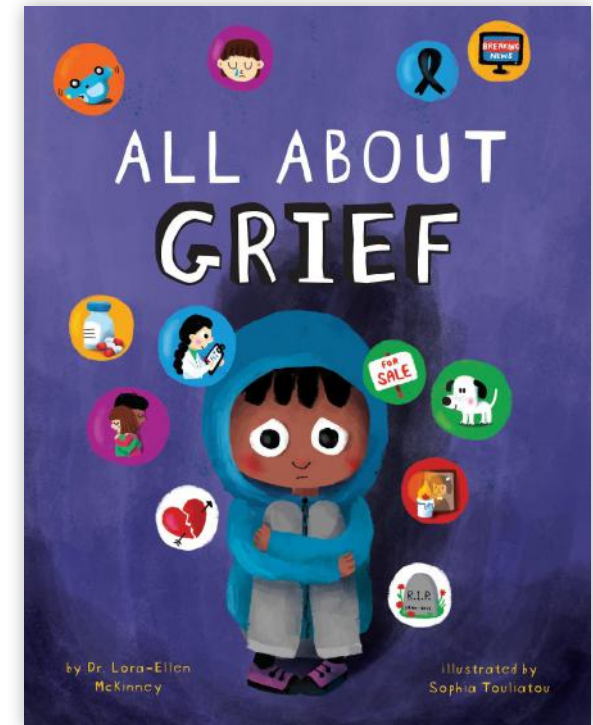
*What is grief? Where does it come from? Will I ever be OK again?*

*Grief.* It is a normal, natural response to loss. Everyone experiences it in different ways. You can't avoid it. Grief can be hard to understand and difficult to talk about.

Dr. Lora-Ellen McKinney, a psychologist who has worked with children experiencing grief, answers the big questions that surround feelings of loss. This engaging handbook looks at grief from many different angles, examining how it influences our emotions and relationships, our brains and bodies, and our behavior. Preteen readers will get to know when and why we are most likely to grieve, what purpose grief serves, and strategies for healing and finding hope moving forward.

*Also available: ALL ABOUT ANXIETY*

*Rights sold to: Curtea Veche (Romanian)*



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Full Color Throughout

**Dr. Lora-Ellen McKinney** is a psychologist who has worked with, researched, and taught about children, families, and supportive or harmful systems. She worked in public health policy, conducting research and writing legislation. Dr. McKinney graduated from Vassar College, the University of Washington, and the Harvard Kennedy School.

Greek-born and Athens based **Sophia Toulia tou** has studied Graphic Design and works as an illustrator, doing mostly children books, many of which have gained merits and awards.



# FINDING CALM IN NATURE

Jennifer Grant, illustrated by Erin Brown

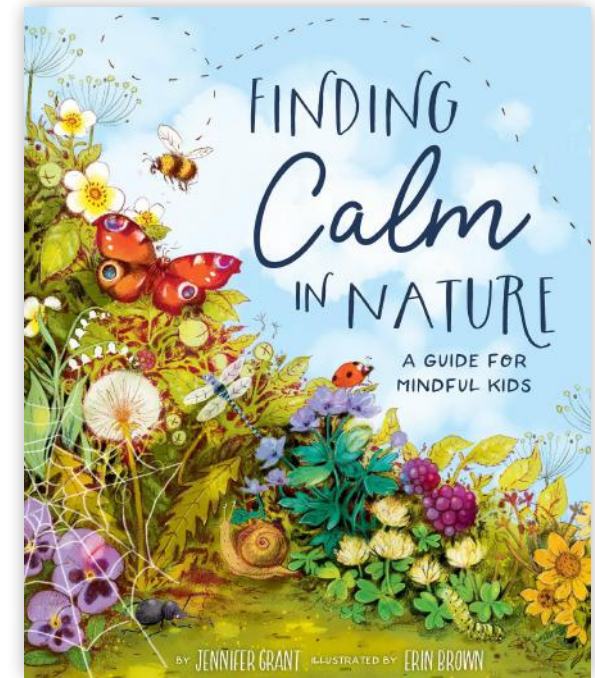
Beaming Books, March 2023

**"Let nature be your teacher when your feelings are tangled up in knots."**

**One way to feel better when we are hurting is to spend time outside. Being in nature is good for both our bodies and our minds.**

Each chapter of this practical guide explores a different element of nature and connects it with a mindfulness prompt designed to help kids manage their feelings. From dandelions to spider webs, children will uncover the lessons nature teaches about embracing a growth mindset, the benefits of living in community, and the transformative power of noticing the beauty around them. Breathing exercises, stretching, practicing mindfulness, and keeping a nature notebook are just some of the tools introduced to kids to equip them to navigate their feelings as they spend time outdoors.

Author Jennifer Grant's affirming, kind voice will inspire readers to see the world with fresh eyes--and discover the calm, joy, and wonder waiting just outside their door.



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Nonfiction  
Full Color Throughout

**Jennifer Grant** is the award-winning author of picture books for children and books for adults. Her books include *Maybe God Is Like That Too*, *Maybe I Can Love My Neighbor Too*, and *Dimming the Day*. Grant holds a master's degree in English literature with concentrations in creative writing and critical theory from Southern Methodist University in Dallas. A mother of four, she lives in Chicago with her husband.

**Erin Brown** is a Northern Irish illustrator who lives on the beautiful island of Jersey. She combines her love for hand-drawn lines with the flexibility of adding color digitally. When she's not working, she can be found exploring the forests and cliff paths of Jersey or down at the seashore.

# INFINITY RAINBOW CLUB: CONNOR AND THE TAEKWONDO TOURNAMENT

The Infinity Rainbow Club #3

Jen Malia, illustrated by Peter Francis

Beaming Books, March 2024

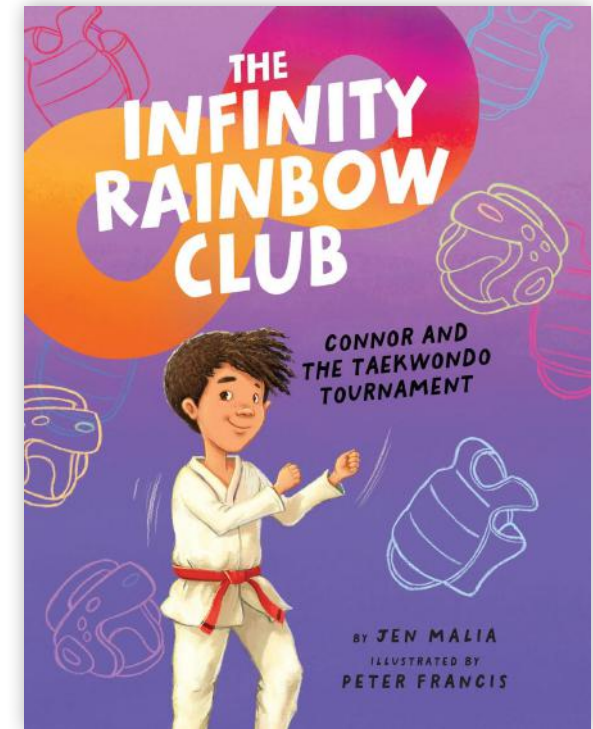
From the Infinity Rainbow Club series comes a new story about rivalry, Taekwondo, and the power of friendship to help us through difficult moments.

*Perseverance, thought Connor. To not give up even when it is hard to keep going.*

Connor loves practicing taekwondo at his dojang. Having ADHD means he has to work a little harder to keep his focus during sparring sessions, but that doesn't stop him from mastering new forms and rising through the taekwondo ranks. However, when Wyatt--Connor's nemesis--starts training at the same dojang, staying focused suddenly becomes a lot harder. Can Connor persevere and find his focus in time for the big tournament?

Written by a neurodivergent author with three neurodivergent children, *Connor and the Taekwondo Tournament* meets a longstanding need for chapter books written from the perspectives of kids with ADHD and is the perfect addition to any young reader's shelf.

The Infinity Rainbow Club is a chapter book series featuring five neurodivergent children in a club at their elementary school. The club provides a safe space for stims and different communication styles to be accepted and celebrated.



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Chapter Book  
Full Color Throughout

**Jen Malia** is a professor of English and the creative writing coordinator at Norfolk State University. Originally from Pittsburgh, Jen currently lives in Virginia Beach with her husband and three kids. Jen has written for the New York Times, the Washington Post, New York Magazine, Woman's Day, Glamour, Self, and others. Jen is the author of Too Sticky! Sensory Issues with Autism as well as the Infinity Rainbow Club series. Jen was diagnosed with ASD in her late thirties and has three neurodivergent kids with different combinations of ASD, ADHD, OCD, dyslexia, and dysgraphia.

**Peter Francis** has created illustrations for children's books for over twenty years. He lives in England.

# INFINITY RAINBOW CLUB: VIOLET AND THE JURASSIC LAND EXHIBIT

The Infinity Rainbow Club #2

Jen Malia, illustrated by Peter Francis

Beaming Books, March 2024

**An engaging story about Violet, who is struggling to trust her work on the augmented reality exhibit, told from the perspective of a child with obsessive-compulsive disorder.**

The Infinity Rainbow Club is volunteering at the local natural history museum where Violet's parents work. Violet loves setting up the new augmented reality exhibit, but she worries that something will go wrong. Her OCD has her repeatedly checking for errors. Can Violet find a way to trust her work and enjoy the exhibit?



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# NICK AND THE BRICK BUILDER CHALLENGE

The Infinity Rainbow Club #1

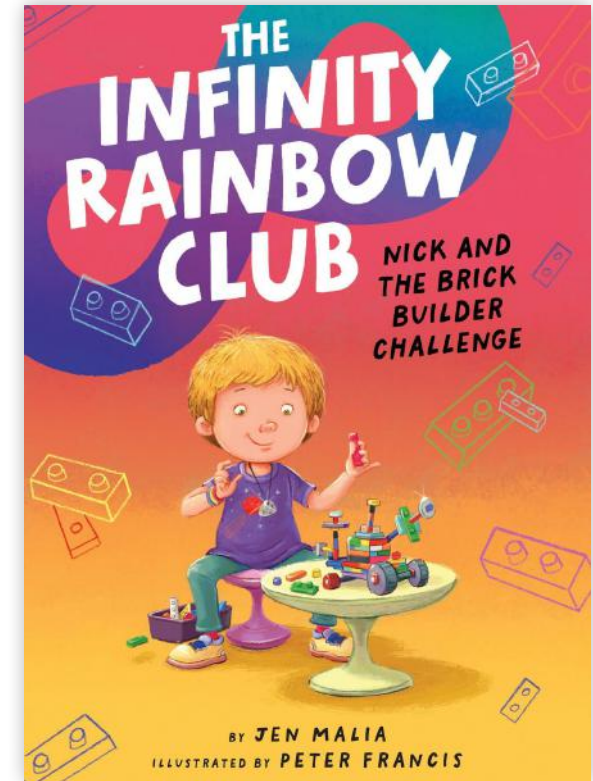
Jen Malia, illustrated by Peter Francis

Beaming Books, September 2023

**An engaging, relatable story about the struggle of learning to work as a team with other kids, told from the perspective of a neurodivergent child.**

When the Infinity Rainbow Club at school competes in a brick builder challenge, Nick can't wait to participate! Until he learns he must have a partner--the new girl. Nick wants to work alone. But to win, he'll have to figure out how to be part of a team.

A story about the universal struggle of learning to work together on a team, told from the perspective of an autistic child.



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**Peter Francis** has created illustrations for children's books for over twenty years. He lives in England.



# PAUSE, BREATHE, BE

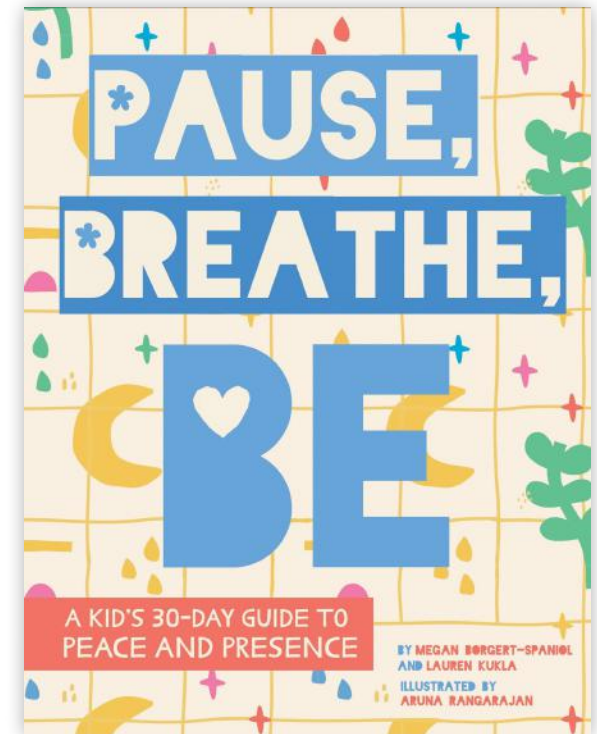
A Kid's 30-Day Guide to Peace and Presence

**Megan Borgert-Spaniol and Lauren Kukla**

Beaming Books, October 2022

**Living a mindful life can be easy—just take it one day at a time.**

Building on the popular 30-day movement trends, *Pause, Breathe, Be: A Kid's 30-Day Guide to Peace and Presence* encourages kids to engage in mindfulness through interactive, fun, and easy methods. Daily mantras, exercises, quizzes, and activities help kids achieve a deeper understanding and connection to the world around them while building self-esteem and reducing anxiety. This middle-grade book is organized into three main 10-day sections, exploring oneself, one's environment, and one's relationships. Additional content sprinkled throughout these sections sparks further exploration and discovery, helping young readers incorporate calm, joy, and peace in their lives each day.



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Nonfiction  
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**Megan Borgert-Spaniol** is an author and editor living in Minneapolis.

**Lauren Kukla** is an author and editor of books and media for kids. Her favorite kinds of books to write are the ones that make her think. She lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Aruna Rangarajan** is an illustrator who lives with her family in Minneapolis. She loves drawing interesting things, such as mandalas for books about keeping your calm.

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